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C O N F I D E N T I A L TBILISI 003198

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/09/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [GG](#)

SUBJECT: TENSIONS RISING IN SOUTH OSSETIA

Classified By: Ambassador John F. Tefft, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (U) On December 2, the South Ossetian press reported that a checkpoint on the road to the Ossetian village of Zari was hit by fire from a grenade launcher. Later press reports from South Ossetia claimed that Georgian special police forces attacked a bus traveling along a bypass road leading from Tskhinvali. No casualties were reported.

[1](#)2. (C) Poloff spoke with OSCE Political Officer Jurgen Schmidt, who said JPKF and OSCE observers determined that the reported explosion was the result of an accidental land mine detonation along a bypass road leading from Tskhinvali to the village of Java. Schmidt said South Ossetians were spreading propaganda, there was no indication that an attack took place.

TEFFT